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Turner appointment

PRESIDENT Carter has made what we believe is an excellent appointment in naming Adm. Stansfield Turner to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

There should be no problem in Senate confirmation of the nomination.

Carter's first choice for the position, Theodore Sorensen, had to withdraw because of Senate opposition to his appointment. As a former conscientious objector, Sorensen was obviously disqualified to head a paramilitary agency.

Turner is not the first military man named to head the CIA. Since its establishment in 1947,

the agency has had three military officers at its head — Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, Gen. Walter Bedell Smith and Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. By law, however, only one of the top posts in CIA (director and deputy director) can be held by a military officer.

Under President Ford's executive order of 1976, reorganizing our foreign intelligence agencies, the CIA director became more important than ever, with new responsibilities to oversee the military intelligence agencies.

Adm. Turner, a brilliant Navy officer with a broad and distinguished background, can handle the job.